

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 14147 01 OF 02 031528Z

43

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 IOE-00

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NASA-01 NSC-05 OES-03 OIC-02 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01 EB-07 ISO-00 /115 W

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P R 031514Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0002

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 14147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, UN, FR

SUBJECT: INITIATIVES AT UN OUTER SPACE MEETING IN NEW
YORK

REF: STATE 121247

1. ON JUNE 2, WE DISCUSSED THE ISSUES AT THE UP-COMING
MEETING OF UN SPACE COMMITTEE AND POSSIBLE FRENCH OR
OTHER INITIATIVES THERE WITH CHADID-NOURAI OF QUAI
LEGAL DEPARTMENT. HE INDICATED THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO THE
FRENCH DELEGATION WOULD NOT BE DEFINITIVE UNTIL
ACCEPTED BY AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE WHICH WILL
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PAGE 02 PARIS 14147 01 OF 02 031528Z

MEET LATER THIS WEEK BUT THAT THE FRENCH POSITIONS HE

DESCRIBED BASED ON QUAI WORKING PAPERS WOULD PROBABLY BE APPROVED. HE SAID THAT IF ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ARE MADE, HE WOULD COMMUNICATE THEM TO THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES AT THE JUNE 9 - 20 MEETING UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK. HE WELCOMED PRELIMINARY EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH THE U.S. AND HOPED THAT IF WASHINGTON IS PLANNING ANY INITIATIVES, HE COULD BE INFORMED ABOUT THEM BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THIS WEEKEND FOR NEW YORK. HIS COMMENTS ON THE ISSUES WHICH ARE SIGNIFICANT FOR THE U.S. FOLLOW.

2. REMOTE SENSING: THE FRENCH FOUND THE U.S. PAPER SUBMITTED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE HIGHLY INTERESTING, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT COMPLETELY IN AGREEMENT WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS OF IT. THE PAPER APPEALED TO THE FRENCH BECAUSE IT DEMONSTRATED A GENUINE U.S. INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT AND PROPOSED SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELD. THE FRENCH CONSIDER, HOWEVER, THAT THE U.S. PAPER "CONFUSES" THE PROPER SUBJECTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, MIXING INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND STATES, WHEREAS UNDER FRENCH DOCTRINE ONLY THE LATTER MAY BE SUBJECTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE FRENCH PLAN NO INITIATIVE AT THE MEETING BUT MIGHT REACT TO OTHERS' INITIATIVES. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO BASE DISCUSSIONS ON TEXTS RATHER THAN ORAL VIEWS AND WILL PRESS THIS VIEWPOINT. CHADID-NOURAI INDICATED THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME POSSIBILITY OF RECONCILING LATIN AMERICAN AND FRENCH POSITIONS ON REMOTE SENSING AND HINTED THAT THIS WAS UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE SOVIETS BUT WE WERE UNABLE TO DRAW HIM OUT FURTHER ON THE MATTER. HE HAD THE IMPRESSION, UNSUPPORTED BY FACT, THAT THE LAS AND SOVIETS MIGHT PRESS THIS MATTER.

3. DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING: CHADID-NOURAI GAVE A LENGTHY, DEEPLY FELT EXPOSE OF THE WELL-KNOWN FRENCH OPPOSITION FOR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL REASONS TO UNRESTRICTED RECEPTION. HE WONDERED HOW THE U.S. COULD SQUARE ITS POSITION ON DBS WITH FCC DOCTRINE AND REGULATIONS APPLIED TO DOMESTIC BROADCASTERS, NOTING THAT EVEN IN THE U.S. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IS LIMITED BY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 14147 01 OF 02 031528Z

THE GOVERNMENT. THE FRENCH WILL TAKE NO INITIATIVE AT THIS YEAR'S MEETING BUT WILL PROBABLY DO SO NEXT YEAR. ALTHOUGH IT WAS TOO EARLY TO GIVE DETAILS, CHADID-NOURAI SAID THE EVENTUAL INITIATIVE MIGHT BE EITHER PROCEDURAL OR SUBSTANTIVE; IN ANY CASE, IN SUBSTANCE IT WOULD NOT BE OUT OF LINE WITH THE TRADITIONAL FRENCH POSTURE AND SHOULD NOT, THEREFORE, BE TROUBLESOME TO THE U.S.

4. DRAFT MOON TREATY: THE FRENCH WILL TAKE NO INITIATIVE ON THIS MATTER WHICH THEY CONSIDER "THEORETICAL". MOREOVER, CHADID-NOURAI HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CONSENSUS HOLDS THAT FURTHER ACTION SHOULD AWAIT THE COMPLETION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE.

5. OTHER ISSUES: THE FRENCH ARE VERY ATTACHED TO AN EARLY DEFINITION OF OUTER SPACE AND BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT, EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF SCIENTIFIC PROOFS, TO FIND A WAY TO DEFINE IT. THEY CONSIDER IT ILLOGICAL TO WRITE

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14147 02 OF 02 031523Z

43

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P R 031514Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0003

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 14147

A LAW WITHOUT DEFINING ITS SCOPE AND, ON A MORE PRACTICAL LEVEL, BELIEVE THAT THE GROWING INTERACTIVITY OF AIR AND SPACE PROBLEMS WITH THE CONCOMMITANT DIFFICULTY OF JUDGING WHICH LAW (AIR OR SPACE) TO APPLY REQUIRES SUCH DEFINITION. IF NOT, STATES WHICH PROPERLY SHOULD APPLY LAW, WILL BE UNABLE TO DO SO AND JUDGES OR MEDIATORS WILL HAVE TO WORK WITHOUT ADEQUATE GUIDELINES TO SETTLE SUCH CONFLICTS. THE FRENCH MAY TAKE AN INITIATIVE ON THIS MATTER OR MAY WAIT ANOTHER YEAR BEFORE DOING SO.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 14147 02 OF 02 031523Z

6. THE FRENCH BELIEVE IT IS TOO EARLY TO DECIDE ON AN INTERNATIONAL SPACE CONFERENCE AND WISH TO GET OTHERS' VIEWS ON THE MATTER. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE SHOULD NEXT MEET IN GENEVA AND WOULD SPEAK UP IF THE U.S., AS ANTICIPATED, CAMPAIGNS FOR NEW YORK.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT SEND US BY COB JUNE 4 INFORMATION ON ANY PLANNED U.S. INITIATIVES SO THAT BY RESPONDING TO CHADID-NOURAI'S REQUEST, WE CAN ENCOURAGE THE RATHER FRANK EXCHANGE IN WHICH HE SEEMS PREPARED TO ENGAGE.

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